

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 3, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A message processing apparatus for receiving and displaying e-mail messages sent from a sending end to a receiving end, the e-mail messages having at least a header, a title, and a body, the apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving an e-mail message sent from the sending end;

a keyword lookup table that associates predefined keywords with handler programs, the keywords representing a characteristic of the e-mail messages, such as worthiness or urgency;

key information extraction means for ~~extracting key information from~~ examining the title or body of the e-mail message received by said reception means, means with reference to said keyword lookup table to determine whether the received e-mail message contains any one of the keywords defined in the keyword lookup table; the key information being contained in the title or body of the message as part of attribute data thereof and used to identify a predetermined handler program relevant to the message;

program loading means, disposed at the receiving end, for consulting said keyword lookup table to load one of ~~loading the predetermined handler program~~ programs

that is associated with the ~~key information~~ keyword found in the received e-mail message;

and

execution ~~means~~ means, disposed at the receiving end, for executing the
~~predetermined-handler~~ program loaded by said loading means at prescribed times.

2. (Currently amended) The message processing apparatus according
to claim 1, wherein:

the handler program provides at least one primitive process; and

said execution means selectively executes some of the primitive processes,
depending on events that may occur subsequently to the reception of the e-mail message.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently amended) The message processing apparatus according
to claim 1, wherein:

~~the attribute data further includes~~ the key information accompanies a
predetermined argument: and

said execution means executes the handler program, referring to the argument.

5. (Original) The message processing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein:

the handler programs are stored in a distributing station: and

the message processing apparatus further comprises downloading means for downloading the handler programs from the distribution station.

6. (Currently amended) The message processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

~~said program loading means has a table that defines relationships between the key information and the handler programs associated therewith;~~

~~said program loading means consults the table to select and load one of the handler programs that is associated with the given key information; and~~

said downloading means downloads the keyword lookup table from the distributing station, together with the handler programs.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program for receiving and displaying e-mail messages sent from a sending end, the e-mail messages having at least a header, a title, and a body, the computer program being designed to run on a computer in order to cause the computer to function as:

reception means for receiving an e-mail message sent from the sending end;

a keyword lookup table that associates predefined keywords with handler programs, the keywords representing worthiness or urgency of the e-mail messages;

key information extraction means for ~~extracting key information~~
~~from~~examining the title or body of the e-mail message received by said reception means;
means with reference to said keyword lookup table to determine whether the received e-mail
message contains any one of the keywords defined in the keyword lookup table; the key
~~information being contained in the title or body of the message as part of attribute data~~
~~thereof and used to identify a predetermined handler program relevant to the message;~~

B/ program loading means, disposed at the receiving end, for consulting said
keyword lookup table and loading one of the predetermined handler programprograms that is
associated with the ~~key information~~keyword found in the received e-mail message; and

execution means, disposed at the receiving end, for executing the
~~predetermined handler program loaded by said loading means at prescribed times.~~